NUMB. CLIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Omnia transformant ſeſe in miracula rerum. Virg.

Monday, September 8. 1713.

I Queſtion not but the following Letter will be very Entertaining to thoſe who were preſent at the late Maſquerade, as it will recall into their Minds ſeveral merry Particulars that paſſed in it, and, at the ſame time, be very acceptable to thoſe who were at a Diſtance from it, as they may form from hence ſome Idea of this faſhionable Amuſement.

To NESTOR IRONSIDE *Eſq;*

Per Via Leonis.

SIR,

'I Could ſcarce ever go into good Company, 'but the Diſcourſe was on the Ambaſſador, 'the Politeneſs of his Entertainments, the Good-'neſs of his *Burgundy* and *Champaign*, the Gaiety 'of his Maſquerades, with the odd fantaſtical 'Dreſſes which were made uſe of in thoſe Mid-'night Solemnities. The Noiſe theſe Diverſions 'made, at laſt, raiſed my Curioſity, and for once I 'reſolved to be preſent at them, being at the ſame 'provoked to it by a Lady I then made my Ad-'dreſſes to, one of a ſprightly Humour, and a great 'Admirer of ſuch Novelties. In order to it I hur-'ried my Habit, and got it ready a Week before 'the time, for I grew impatient to be initiated in 'theſe new Myſteries. Every Morning I dreſt 'my ſelf in it, and acted before the Looking-glaſs, 'ſo that I am vain enough to think I was as perfect 'in my Part, as moſt who had oftener frequented 'theſe Diverſions. You muſt underſtand I perſon-'ated a *Devil*, and that for ſeveral weighty Rea-'ſons. Firſt, becauſe appearing as one of that 'Fraternity, I expected to meet with particular Ci-'vilities from the more polite and better bred part 'of the Company. Beſides, as from their uſual 'Reception they are called Familiars, I fancied 'I ſhould, in this Character, be allowed the great-'eſt Liberties, and ſooneſt be led into the Secrets 'of the Maſquerade. To recommend and diſtin-'guiſh me from the Vulgar, I drew a very long 'Taile after me. But to ſpeak the Truth what 'perſuaded me moſt to this Diſguiſe was, be-'cauſe I heard an Intriguing Lady ſay, in a large 'Company of Females, who unanimouſly aſſented 'to it, that ſhe loved to converſe with ſuch, for 'that generally they were very clever Fellows who 'made Choice of that Shape. At length, when the 'long wiſhed for Evening came, which was to 'open to us ſuch vaſt Scenes of Pleaſure, I repair-'ed to the Place appointed about ten at Night, 'where I found Nature turned top ſide turvy, Wo-'men changed into Men, and Men into Women, 'Children in Leading ſtrings ſeven Foot high, 'Courtiers transformed into Clowns, Ladies of 'the Night into Saints, People of the firſt Quality 'into Beaſts or Birds, Gods or Goddeſſes; I 'fancied I had had all *Ovid*'s *Metamorphoſes* before 'me. Among theſe were ſeveral Monſters to which 'I did not know how to give a Name;

——————————*worſe*
Than Fables yet have feigned, or fear conceived,
Gorgons and Hydra's, and Chimera's dire. Milton.

'In the middle of the firſt Room I met with one 'dreſt in a *Shrowd*. This put me in mind of the 'old Cuſtom of ſerving up a Death's Head at a 'Feaſt. I was a little angry at the Dreſs, and 'asked the Gentleman whether he thought a Dead 'Man was fit Company for ſuch an Aſſembly; but 'he told me, that he was one who loved his Mony, 'and

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‘ and that he conſidered this Dreſs would ſerve him ‘ another time. This walking Coarſe was followed by ‘ a Gigantic Woman with a high crowned Hat, that ‘ ſtood up like a Steeple over the Heads of the whole ‘ Aſſembly. I then chanced to tread upon the Foot ‘ of a Female *Quaker*, to all outward Appearance; ‘ but was ſurpriſed to hear her cry out D — n you, ‘ you Son of a — upon which I immediately re- ‘ buked her, when all of a ſudden reſuming her ‘ Character, *Verily*, ſays ſhe, *I was to blame; but ‘ thou haſt bruiſed me ſorely.* A few Moments af- ‘ ter this Adventure, I had like to have been knocked ‘ down by a Shepherdeſs, for having run my Elbow ‘ a little inadvertently into one of her Sides. She ‘ ſwore like a Trooper, and threatned me with a very ‘ Maſculine Voice; but I was timely taken off by a ‘ *Preſbyterian Parſon*, who told me in a very ſoft ‘ Tone, that he believed I was a pretty Fellow, and ‘ that he would meet me in *Spring Garden* to Mor- ‘ row Night. The next Object I ſaw was a *Chim- ‘ ney Sweeper* made up of black Crape and Velvet, ‘ (with a huge Diamond in his Mouth) making ‘ Love to a Butterfly. On a ſudden I found my ſelf a- ‘ mong a Flock of *Batts*, *Owls*, and *Lawyers:* But ‘ what took up my Attention moſt was, one dreſt ‘ in white Feathers that repreſented a *Swan*. He ‘ would fain have found out a *Leda* among the ‘ Fair Sex, and indeed was the moſt unlucky Bird ‘ in the Company. I was then engaged in Di- ‘ ſcourſe with a *Running Footman*, but as I treated ‘ him like what he appeared to be, a *Turkiſh* Em- ‘ peror whiſpered me in the Ear, deſiring me *to uſe ‘ him civilly, for that it was his Maſter.* I was here ‘ interrupted by the famous large Figure of a *Wo- ‘ man hung with little Looking-glaſſes.* She had a great ‘ many that followed her as ſhe paſſed by me, but ‘ I would not have her value her ſelf upon that Ac- ‘ count, ſince it was plain they did not follow ſo ‘ much to look upon her as to ſee themſelves. The ‘ next I obſerved was a *Nun* making an ‘ Aſſignation with a *Heathen God*, for I ‘ heard them mention the *Little Piazza* in ‘ *Covent Garden*. I was by this time exceeding ‘ hot and thirſty, ſo that I made the beſt of my ‘ way to the Place where Wine was dealt about ‘ in great Quantities. I had no ſooner preſented ‘ my ſelf before the Table, but a *Magician*, ſeeing ‘ me, made a Circle over my Head with his Wand, ‘ and ſeemed to do me Homage. I was at a loſs ‘ to account for his Behaviour; 'till I Recollected ‘ who I was: This however drew the Eyes of the ‘ Servants upon me, and immediately procured me ‘ a Glaſs of Excellent *Champain*. The *Magician* ‘ ſaid I was a Spirit of an aduſt and dry Conſtitution; ‘ and deſired that I might have another refreſhing ‘ Glaſs, adding withal, that it ought to be a Brim- ‘ mer. I took it in my Hand and Drank it off to ‘ the *Magician*. This ſo enlivened me, that I led ‘ him by the Hand into the next Room, where we ‘ danced a Rigadoon together. I was here a little ‘ offended at a Jackanapes of a *Scaramouch*, that ‘ cry'd out, *Avaunt Satan*, and gave me a little tap ‘ on my left Shoulder, with the end of his Lath- ‘ Sword. As I was conſidering how I ought to ‘ reſent this Affront, a well-ſhaped Perſon that ſtood ‘ at my left Hand, in the Figure of a *Bellman*, cry'd ‘ out with a ſuitable Voice, *Paſt Twelve a Clock.* ‘ This put me in mind of Bed time: Accordingly I ‘ made my way towards the Door, but was inter- ‘ cepted by an *Indian King*, a Tall, ſlender Youth, ‘ dreſſed up in a moſt beautiful Party-colour'd Plu- ‘ mage. He regarded my Habit very attentively; ‘ and after having turned me about once or twice, ‘ asked me *whom I had been Tempting*; I could not ‘ tell what was the matter with me, but my Heart ‘ leaped aſſoon as he touched me, and was ſtill in ‘ greater Diſorder, upon my hearing his Voice. In ‘ ſhort, I found, after a little Diſcourſe with him, that ‘ his *Indian* Majeſty was my dear *Leonora*, who ‘ knowing the Diſguiſe I had put on, would not let ‘ me paſs by her unobſerved. Her awkward Manli- ‘ neſs made me gueſs at her Sex, and her own Con- ‘ feſſion quickly let me know the reſt. This Maſ- ‘ querade did more for me than a Twelve Months ‘ Courtſhip: For it inſpired her with ſuch tender ‘ Sentiments that I married her the next Morning.

‘ How happy I ſhall be in a Wife taken out of a ‘ Maſquerade, I cannot yet tell; but I have reaſon ‘ to hope the beſt, *Leonora* having aſſured me it was ‘ the firſt, and ſhall be the laſt time of her appearing ‘ at ſuch an Entertainment.

‘ And now, Sir, having given you the Hiſtory of ‘ this ſtrange Evening, which looks rather like a ‘ Dream than a Reality, it is my requeſt to you, that ‘ you will oblige the World with a Diſſertation on ‘ Maſquerades in general, that we may know how ‘ far they are uſeful to the Publick, and conſequent- ‘ ly how far they ought to be encouraged. I have ‘ heard of two or three very odd Accidents that ‘ have happened upon this Occaſion, as in particu- ‘ lar, of a *Lawyer's* being now big-bellied, who was ‘ preſent at the firſt of theſe Entertainments; not ‘ to mention (what is ſtill more Strange) an *Old ‘ Man* with a long Beard, who was got with Child ‘ by a *Milkmaid*; but in Caſes of this Nature, where ‘ there is ſuch a Confuſion of Sex, Age and Qua- ‘ lity, Men are apt to report rather what might have ‘ happened, than what really came to paſs. With- ‘ out giving Credit therefore to any of theſe Ru- ‘ mours, I ſhall only renew my Petition to you, ‘ that you will tell us your Opinion at large of theſe ‘ Matters, and am,

SIR, &c.

Lucifer.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

In a few Days will be Publiſh'd,

The Importance of Dunkirk conſider'd. In a Letter to the Bayliff of Stockbridge. By Mr. Steele. Printed for A. Baldwin at the Oxford Arms in Warw.ck-lane.

Whereas there hath been lately Publiſhed, and expoſed to Sale, a Spurious Copy after the Print of his Excellency the preſent Lord Biſhop of London, contrary the Knowledge and Conſent of his Lordſhip, or his Relations, in whoſe Hands the Original Painting is; this is to ſatisfie the Publick, that no Perſon may be impoſed upon by it, that the true Print is Engraved by Mr. Vertue from the Original Painting of Mr. Dahll; and Sold by Joſeph Smith in Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, and Thomas Taylor at the Golden Lion in Fleetſtreet, Printſellers, price 1 s. Note, the true Print hath the above-ſaid Painter and Engraver's Names to it.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.